

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 8, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2354**

**Introduced by Assembly Member V. Manuel Perez**

February 19, 2010

An act relating to public health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2354, as amended, V. Manuel Perez. Community Health Workers: Promotores.

Existing law establishes training and certification programs for various healing arts professionals including, among others, nurses, midwives, occupational therapists, dietitians, and social workers.

This bill would ~~state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would prepare California to receive and use various federal health care funding to prepare, train, promote, and expand the work of community health workers, as specified.~~ *require the State Department of Public Health, in consultation with the University of California, to establish a technical advisory committee to study the creation of a framework for a promotores development program, as specified.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 ~~(a) Community Health Workers (CHWs), also known as~~
- 4 ~~promotores, peer leaders, or health advocates, serve as a bridge~~

1 between the community and the public health care system,  
2 providing health education and prevention information and  
3 resources in a manner that is culturally and linguistically  
4 appropriate. CHWs

5 (a) *Promotores, also known as Community Health Workers*  
6 *(CHWs), peer leaders, or health advocates, serve as a bridge*  
7 *between the community and the public and private health care*  
8 *system, providing health education, health promotion, prevention,*  
9 *informational counseling, and referral information, as well as*  
10 *resources in a manner that is culturally and linguistically*  
11 *appropriate. Promotores function as cultural brokers who possess*  
12 *a unique understanding of those, often difficult-to-reach,*  
13 *communities they serve.*

14 (b) According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and  
15 Prevention, integrating promotores and community health workers  
16 into health programs has been associated with improvements in  
17 access to health care, prenatal care, pregnancy and birth outcomes,  
18 client health status, health- and screening-related behaviors,  
19 *community health*, and reduced health care costs.

20 ~~(c) Federal efforts to address healthcare affordability and~~  
21 ~~accessibility have identified the community health worker and~~  
22 ~~promotores model as an effective practice and have committed~~  
23 ~~financial support to help implement the model. In fact, current~~  
24 ~~federal legislative efforts include funding for CHWs and~~  
25 ~~promotores.~~

26 ~~(d) The Legislature recognizes and applauds the contributions~~  
27 ~~of CHWs with regard to community health and well-being, and~~  
28 ~~cost-effective prevention. Currently, however, California does not~~  
29 ~~have a statewide certification or any training specific to becoming~~  
30 ~~or working as a promotora or community health worker.~~

31 ~~(e) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that~~  
32 ~~would prepare California to receive and use federal health care~~  
33 ~~funding, including, but not limited to, health prevention, outreach,~~  
34 ~~and education funding, to prepare, train, promote, and expand the~~  
35 ~~work of promotores, including in community health clinics and~~  
36 ~~county public health departments, throughout the state.~~

37 *(c) Federal efforts to address health care affordability,*  
38 *accessibility, and use have identified the promotores model as an*  
39 *effective practice and have committed financial support to help*  
40 *implement the model. Current federal legislative efforts include*

1 *funding and support for programs that could employ promotores*  
2 *on a broad scale.*

3 *(d) The Legislature recognizes and applauds the contributions*  
4 *of promotores toward improving community health and well-being,*  
5 *advocacy, and cost-effective prevention. Currently, however,*  
6 *California does not have a statewide certification or standardized*  
7 *training to certify the status of promotores.*

8 *(e) As increased federal public health funding becomes available*  
9 *to California, specifically for the increased use of promotores and*  
10 *for programs that employ promotores, it is incumbent upon the*  
11 *state to have a comprehensive assessment of the current use of*  
12 *and funding for promotores. This should include the feasibility of*  
13 *a promotores development program, and a multiphased strategy*  
14 *for implementing a program to set standards, train, evaluate,*  
15 *promote, and expand the work of promotores, in community health*  
16 *clinics and local public health departments, community-based*  
17 *organizations, research institutions, and other public and private*  
18 *entities throughout the state.*

19 *SEC. 2. The State Department of Public Health, in consultation*  
20 *with the University of California, shall establish a technical*  
21 *advisory committee to study the creation of a framework for a*  
22 *promotores development program. The committee shall advise the*  
23 *department, the Governor, and the Legislature regarding its*  
24 *findings and recommendations. The committee shall use federal*  
25 *funding, including, but not limited to, funding from the United*  
26 *States Department of Health and Human Services, the federal*  
27 *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Health*  
28 *Resources and Services Administration, to support the development*  
29 *of the study.*